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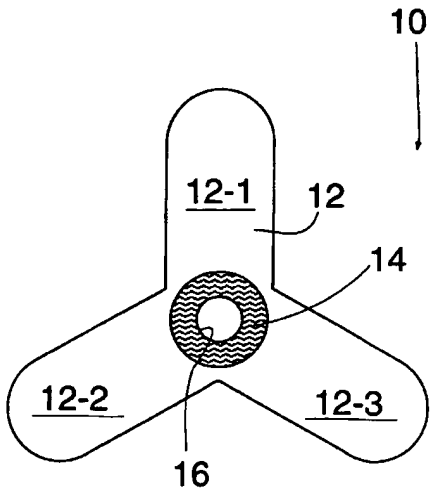
(54) Hollow bicomponent filaments and methods of making same

(57) Novel bicomponent fibers have a sheath domain and an core domain which is embedded entirely within, and thereby completely surrounded by, the polyamide domain. The core domain is annular and defines a longitudinally extending central void. The preferred bicomponent fibers have a sheath-core structure wherein the polyamide domain constitutes the sheath and a fiber-forming polyolefin polymer constitutes the core. The preferred trilobal bicomponent fibers will exhibit a modification ratio of between 2 to 4, an arm angle of between 7° to about 35°, and a total cross-sectional void area between about 3 and about 10 percent. Each lobe of the fiber may optionally contain a lobal void space which, if present, is preferably radially elongate in cross section.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 12 2387

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	EP 0 705 923 A (HERCULES) 10 April 1996 * page 4, line 22 - line 49; claims * ---	1	D01D5/34 D01D5/24 D01D5/253
X	WO 92 02669 A (DOW CHEMICAL) 20 February 1992 * page 5, line 18 - page 16, line 2; claims * -----	1-8	D01F8/12 D01F8/06

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)

D01D
D01F
D06N

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	21 March 1999	Hellemans, W

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

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21-03-1999

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